IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2-5 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claim 1, and add new claims 6-12 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

a first substrate on a main surface thereof, a black mask and color filters, each arranged in an aperture of the black mask, being formed;

a liquid crystal layer;

a second substrate [[provided in opposition]] disposed opposite to the first substrate across the liquid crystal layer and stuck to the first substrate by a sealing material applied to peripheries of a main surface of the first substrate facing the liquid crystal layer and of a main surface of the second substrate facing the liquid crystal layer;

a stacked structure formed on the main surface of the second substrate by stacking in order first signal lines, an insulating film covering the first signal lines, and second signal lines each overlappingly intersecting the first signal lines over the insulating film therebetween;

~~a liquid crystal layer provided between the first substrate and the second substrate;~~ and

first spacers and second spacers [[provided]] both formed on the main surfaces of the first substrate to be pressed against the black mask by an external force,

wherein in the absence of the external force, each of the second spacers is spaced from the stacked structure formed on the second substrate to accommodate the liquid crystal layer [[being provided]] therebetween, ~~the spacers and the second substrate~~ and each of the first spacers directly contacts with the stacked structure formed on the second substrate.

2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (New) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein each of the second spacers contacts with the stacked structure formed on the second substrate while the first spacers are subjected to the external force and elastically deformed.

7. (New) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein portions of the stacked structure contacting with the second spacers is thicker than portions of the stacked structure corresponding to the second spacers with the liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween.

8. (New) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein the first spacers contact with the stacked structure at overlappingly intersecting positions of the first signal lines and the second signal lines, and
the second spacers correspond to positions of the first signal lines which are overlappingly intersecting with the second signal lines to accommodate the liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween.

9. (New) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein the black mask and the color filters are covered by a protective film 4 to bury steps formed by the black mask and the color filters, and
the first spacers and the second spacers are formed on top of the protective film.

10. (New) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein each of the first spacers is formed on top of a base pattern which is formed on areas of the black mask, while the base pattern is not formed on areas of the black mask where the second spacers are formed.

11. (New) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 10, wherein a protective film covers the black mask, the color filters, and the base patterns such that the first spacers are formed on areas of the protective film while the second spacers are formed on other areas of the protective film covering the black mask but not the base patterns.

12. (New) A liquid crystal display device, according to claim 1, wherein the second substrate has a plurality of pixels arranged on the main surface thereof, and each of the pixels has a switching element controlled by one of the first signal lines and a pixel electrode receiving a signal from one of the second signal lines through the switching element.